

2562-022 PCT/US-1
Amendment dated 08/22/2007

10/541,538

03100241aa
Reply to office action mailed 03/22/2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet 3 containing Figs. 5 and 6 replaces the original drawing sheet 3.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-8 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" show all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each .

In the specification, amendments have been made and section headings have been added to clarify the structure of the application.

The Examiner has noted that certain references in an IDS submitted by the applicant were not provided with an English translation and therefore have not been considered. A suitable supplemental IDS is being submitted separately.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they do not show the "conical intermediate space" recited in claim 4, line 2. The conical intermediate space claimed is described in Fig. 5 and the corresponding text (page 5, lines 1-15). It will be observed from the illustrative conicity angle of 35° that the conical space bounded by lines 13 is conical because lines 13 are defined by narrow side edges 11,12 of sections 9,10, respectively, which are offset as measured by the conicity angle. This conical intermediate space 16 between sections 9 has been suitably identified in the replacement sheet for drawing sheet 3 attached as Appendix A.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The foregoing amendments overcome this ground of rejection. It will be noted that the specification uses the term "conical", although one skilled in the art would understand that the "conical intermediate space" is a flattened cone section approaching a trapezoid. Consequently, no clarity is lost by retaining the term "conical". Please also note in claim 7 that a translation error in the

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preliminary amendment failed to transcribe a “±”, which has been restored by the foregoing amendment. Further, as to claim 8, the Examiner’s suggestion of Markush group construction has been accepted.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,305,125 to Nozaki et al. (“Nozaki”). The Examiner has rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nozaki. Nozaki discloses a window guide assembly having a plurality of contact members attached at only one end for guiding an automobile door window.

The present invention relates to a window frame unit having a window pane which can ascend or descend in lateral guides. The idea of the present invention is to form the guides integrally with the window frame by diecasting (e.g. of a light metal like aluminum). The problem addressed by the invention is that the window frame unit, when produced by diecasting, determines a main demolding direction for two casting molds which form the mold cavity for the window frame unit and which are separated from each other after the molding process. From Fig. 6 it will be observed that there is a main demolding direction determined by the ribs 15. This is a horizontal direction in Fig. 6 (from left to right or from right to left). On the other hand, the guide 8 for guiding the edge of the window pane is open to a direction which is essentially perpendicular to the main molding direction. In Fig. 6 it will be observed that the guide 8 is open toward the downside edge of the drawing.

Therefore, under the prior art, it was not possible to produce the guide 8 integrally with the window frame unit without complicated and specific additional mold pieces which are movable separately from the main mold pieces. The present invention discloses a structure for the guide which allows production of the guide

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integrally with the main mold pieces. Because the structural elements are distinct from known structures it is appropriate to claim the invention with apparatus claims.

Nozaki discloses a window guide portion which is not made integral with the window frame unit but is a separate unit, as shown in Figs. 1 and 6 of Nozaki, which has to be fastened to the window frame unit. The guide portion may be formed by diecasting of a plastic material, but is certainly not integral with the metallic window frame unit. Furthermore, the Nozaki guide has two continuous rails (i.e. "limbs" in the terms of the present application). Therefore, it is not possible to produce the guide with main mold pieces as proposed by the present invention.

In Fig. 6 of the present invention it will be observed that the separating line between the two main mold pieces in the region of the guide is marked 14. The above described conical intermediate space necessitates a corresponding conical design of the meandering shape of the casting mold parts which separate at the plane 14 (page 5, lines 7-12). The conical design of the meandering shape considerably facilitates the demolding (page 5, lines 13-15), so that the purpose of the invention is effected.

The claims have been amended to more precisely state the conical design feature that enables production of the claimed one-piece window frame unit. In claim 1 the interspaces between sections imply a non-zero angle of conicity that is described in greater detail in the dependent claims. Further, what is claimed is a one-piece unit enabled by the conical design.

Nozaki is thereby overcome as a reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-8 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

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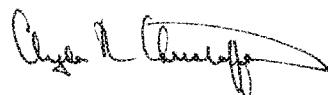
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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If a further extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Sincerely,



Clyde R Christofferson

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APPENDIX A

REPLACEMENT SHEET

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